Copies BF, MF, HH, GS, RB, HR 5/21/70

Dear Dick,

Glad you are sending me your article. Until I read it there is not much I can say. However, I do not think you understood my letter, for you do not answer the questions I asked.

What has Fred Cook done to "have something going perhaps"? It is news to me and will be quite a surprise if it is both signifigant and accurate. I am familiar with his past on this subject and it is, to me, tragic when I consider the importance of his work in other areas.

Your are correct on Skolnick. I am more than unhappy. If I assume he is without evil motive, which I am willing to do but for which I have no basis in fact, I cannot forget that so many, with the best intentions, thinking they are pointed at heaven, pave so many different roads to the same hell. This is an enormously complicated subject, and there are remarkable few who have a really firm founding in it. There are many who, with greatest sincerity, are convinced they have. I have yet to find one of these brethren willing to consider he might not. For quite some time now this and these, not the government, have been our major problem, and it has been the undiluted overpouring of toilets that has destroyed our credibility more than the major efforts against us, for they have validated these efforts which, without such unintended assistance, were without deviation at an earlier day, all unsuccessful. Example: the Schiller record, the first thing of its sort, and the Roberts books, were both bombs. Irresponsibility by those incapable of or unwilling to face self-analysis or to subject their work, in advance of any publication, to any critical review by those knowing enough to provide it, has been, continues to be and, I regret, will continue to be the major survival problem faced by serious and dependable workers.

"Peripherally" is a broad word. When you say, "I figure we have many more than six people peripherally involved as a minimum. Possibilities include Dean, Novel, Hicks, Santanna, Lewis, Nagell and others". I note you did not identfy the "about six confessions" of which I asked and I add this listing terrifies me. You ask what I know about "Emilio Santanna or Santarre and his confession to Garrison? Lawyer Copland (please identify to me) claims to have seen it and says Sakarre shot from the second floor Dal Tex window".

I know nothing of any such alleged confession and were it in my hands I's not believe it without the most abundant confirmation. I know of nothing at this moment justifying giving it a serious thought.

Nagell is paranoid as they come. I know of no solid substantiation of his word. Dean I turned up. Turner interviewed him but added nothing to the inadequate information that had been obtained for me by the very good amateurs I asked to speak to him. I added more when I got him to come to Newcomb's for me to interview him 10/68, but Fred got none of what Dean then promised to give me, some of which he then showed me. Or, Fred got it and withheld it, which I do not believe. I know nothing of Dean to warrant your figuring on him as an undefinie possibility of something and I do not believe he is the man in CE237. Have you fed questions about this into a computer?

I know nothing about computers, but I knowthey cannot put out other than what they received, therefore, I am quite interested in the input.

You say you are going to refer any questioners to Bud, so I take it that as of 5/19 there have been none. He is now busier than usual and if you have not asked him about this, urge you to. He may not have time or prefer not to. Best, HW

193 Pinewood Road
Hartsdale, N. Y. 10530

May 19, 1970

Mr. Harold Weisberg
Route 7
Frederick, Md.

Dear Harold:

Many thanks for the letter and compliment on my article. Yes, it has created a lot of publicity. I hope we can turn this to the advantage of all of us somehow. As you know, I shunned publication and publicity for several years. If this is one way to stir up public and congressional interest again I thought I should do it. The magazine should have arrived by the time you receive this.

With the help of dear old LBJ and CBS and Bud and Fred Cook; we now have something going perhaps.

Have you seen Al Chapman's article in National Enquirer this week? Also Skolnick. I'm sure you're unhappy about him.

The confessors in the article are the same old ones you have discovered long ago. I was attempting to draw a comment from some of my more establishment friends, who, like Warren, always say "but you have no new evidence," or "If there were so many people involved, why haven't some of them talked by now?"

If pressed I will refer questions to NCTIA headquarters. I figure we have many more than six people peripherally involved as a minimum. Possibilities include Dean, Novel, Hicks, Santanna, Lewis, Nagell and others.

What do you know about Emilio Santanna or Santarra and his confession to Garrison? Lawyer Copland claims to have seen it and says Santarra shot from the second floor Dal Tex window.

Regards,

Dick

Richard E. Sprague